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2005 District Couple of the
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GWRRA GEORGIA

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IS IT FALL ALREADY?

A couple of weeks ago, we had the opportunity to go to Helen for the Region A Rally. Even though a tornado came through a few days earlier, the weather was great. With only a few exceptions, most of the damage from the tornado was across the river in the non-populated part of town. Because of all the damage along the Gulf Coast and the uncertainty of the availability of fuel due to Hurricane Katrina, the attendance was down a bit, but we still had a great time visiting with all our friends that were able to make it.



Along with all the other activities, the new Region A Couple of the Year was selected. Jon and Diane Klaaren, from Alabama will have the opportunity to represent Region A for the next year and to participate in the International selection process in Tennessee next July.

After the hurricane, any people wanted to do something to help our GWRRA friends along the coast during their time of need. Bill Gulley, the Alabama District Director is in charge of a Hurricane Relief Fund that will be distributed among our members that have suffered loss. If you would like to make a contribution, please notify Bill at bamawing@netzero.com.

Before, during and after the recent storms, many have had first hand experience with the power of prayer. Jimmy Hodge has, for many years, wanted to start a prayer chain. He and Wayne Hinson have been talking and Wayne will be spearheading this effort. This is not a GWRRA "thing" or a CMA "thing", just a personal "THING". If you would like to participate as a Prayer Warrior, please contact Wayne at ltjb2@wmconnect.com.

From all predictions, this fall should be one of the most colorful in a long time and all of us

will be looking for an excuse to get out and ride. One good excuse will be the upcoming **WIND DOWN**. This will be the last official District event for the year and an opportunity to say thank you to the members of GWRRA Georgia for all their support during the year.

This year, we will be gathering at Villa Rica High School in Villa Rica. Take Exit 24 off I-20 West. Turn north (right) on Hwy 61. Get in the left lane. Go west (left) at the main intersection of Hwy 61 and Hwy 78 (this would be the 2nd traffic signal). Just past the Exxon station on the left is an undeveloped lot. Go past this lot and turn right at the sign for Villa Rica High School at 600 Rocky Branch Road. The school is visible in front of you as soon as you turn. Please park double in the spaces and at an angle on the curb. If the front lot fills, there is an additional lot to the right of the front of the building where the trailers are. Those of you in cars, please park on the gravel area in front and save the pavement for the bikes.



There should be plenty of room for parking, socializing, eating, and selecting the district Couple of the Year. Because of the facilities, we will have a swap table of two set up for those perfect little gifts that someone else needs. This year, we will be enjoying chili, baked potatoes, and grilled cheese sandwiches prepared by Linda Whitlock. Ladies are reminded to bring your special homemade desserts.



As usual, there is no registration fee, and lunch is our treat. Just to make things interesting, we will be having a 50/25/25 and will play some games for door prizes if you desire.

DO YOU HAVE AN ACTION PLAN?

Action Plan? Action plan for what? For those “Out-Of-Nowhere” hazards we all encounter at one time or another while riding our motorcycles. Pot holes, road kill, trash in your lane, things falling/flying off vehicles in front of you, sudden swerving 4-wheelers that apparently want your lane, even though you are still in it. These and so many other things that come at you out of nowhere. Missing these sudden hazards is a combination of luck and your skill.



Some riders tend to look 15-20 feet in front of their front tire. That just does not give you any reaction time at all. All Rider Courses stress the rider looking ahead. I know if you have taken a Rider Course, one of the things that you continually hear stressed, especially during cornering exercises, is, “Look to where you want to go!” That is pretty good advice. If you are looking a few feet ahead of your front tire, you are past that spot, before you have time to think about it. If that were a pot hole, 15-20 feet in front of you, at 55 MPH, you have left yourself no reaction time. So, try to plan ahead. Look as far in front as you can see.

The sooner you know where the problem is, the more time you have to react to the potential hazard. So, now, you can react to that hazard, BUT, can you? What is around you? Which way do you go to avoid the problem? Try to know what is next to you, behind and in front of you. You’ve got to react. You are either going to the right, left or brake. You do not have much time to figure out what you have to do. Know your surroundings. Left lane clear of vehicles? Right lane? Anyone tailgating you to where you can’t brake? Be aware of what is around you. Don’t tailgate! Give yourself room to move to an escape route if the rider/driver in front of your has a sudden change of travel or if a out-of-nowhere hazard confronts you. If someone wants to pass you, let them. Try to maintain your spacing when traveling with a group. It is safer for the entire group. Think quick. With road debris, most people look, stare at it, then hit it! Program your mind to think of what to do in order NOT to hit something. Your goal is to ride safely around the hazard. Alertness and reaction time go hand-in-hand. And choose wisely. If two or more potential hazards are facing you, a ladder in the road, a 4-wheeler next to you in the left lane, a pickup riding your license plate, and the right lane open to a ditch, which are you going to choose? Not many options here and not much time to make a decision and react to that decision. The ditch may not be absolutely safe, but it is better than your other options. Plan ahead, choose wisely and ride safely . . .



And as always, always be watchful for the unwatchful . . .

RSHF Chuck and Anne Reed

Georgia District Educators

What’s in Rome? Part 3

The Chieftains Museum is a National Landmark once the home of Major Ridge, a leader of the Cherokee Nation. This area of Georgia was home to a loose confederation of Cherokee tribes among whom were principal local chiefs, David Vann and Major Ridge. Major Ridge earned his ranking with the US Army in service to Gen. Andrew Jackson. Ridge led several delegations to Washington in efforts to preserve the lands of his people. Seeing inevitable defeat, Ridge exchanged the Cherokee lands in Georgia for territory in the west. The home once occupied by Major Ridge is located on the banks of the Oostanaula River and depicts the heritage of the house, the history of the Ridge family and the impact they had on both American and Cherokee history. It is open T-F 9am-3pm; Sat. 10am-4pm. For more info., call 706.291.9494 or visit the website www.discoverourtown.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 1—GA-E2 Poker Run for Hospice, Contact JJ Etzle, Chapter Director, for more info at (912) 826-0912.



Oct. 22—GA-A Fall Harvest Fun Day, High Falls State Park, \$8 per person. For more info contact CD Bob Greer at (770) 473-1316.

Nov. 19—GA-H Toy Run, meet at Po-Jo's Truck Stop north of I-16 on Hwy. 301S. For more info contact Curtis Gay at (912) 852-9035.

Nov. 5—Wind Down. Villa Rica High School, 600 Rocky Branch Rd, Villa Rica. Gathering begins at 10 a.m. Lunch is served at 11:00.

Jan. 14, 2006—Chilly Willy. Location to be announced

Jan. 14-15—Officer meeting and training, Forsyth Holiday Inn.

Your Chapter event is not sanctioned by GWRRA without District approval. To confirm a date for your event, call Rick and Rhonda for verbal approval.

Once your date is approved, send your activity request form and event flyer to the District Director. If there are any changes or revisions, these requests should also be directed to the District Director.

A Chapter may not appear on the annual event schedule more than once at any one time. Chapters desiring to host more than one event in a year must wait until the first even has happened before requesting a second date.

2005 GA CHAPTER COUPLES OF THE YEAR

Brian & Cindy Allen, GA-A

Al & Frances Starley, GA-A2

Walt & Bev Thayer, GA-B2

Ray & Kathy Potter, GA-C

Larry & Teresa Urban, GA-C2

Ken & Vicki Watkins, GA-E

Buddy & Liz Vars, GA-E2

Rich & Sally Curtis, GA-G

Kary & Pat Porter, GA-H

George & Jan Danner, GA-J

Jeremy Clay & Courteney Holcombe, GA-L

Robert & Anna Tillman, GA-O

Joe & Bonnie Durning, GA-P

Phillip & Pat Denning, GA-Q

Sid & Donna Cohen, GA-S

Tommy & Vicky Martin, GA-T

Wayne & Nina Carlton, GA-V

Buck & Dianne Harden, GA-X

What a great group of Chapter volunteers who are being honored this year by being selected as their Chapter's Couple of the Year. Thanks to all for participating in the Program.

Privacy and Your Membership

Recently we heard about some members who were receiving spam to an email account that they had not shared with many people. They wondered just how did they get on so many company's email lists? Well, it's sad to say, but its probably friends and maybe even your Chapter's staff! How many times do you receive an email that you want to share with your Chapter friends? When you forward these emails, do you include all your friends in the "To" field? When you do, you are putting them at risk!

There's a better way. First, go into your contact list and create a new contact. Name that contact something like "GWRRA friends" or "Chapter Members". Then put your email address for the email address of this new contact. Now, copy the info from the original email and paste it into the body of a new email message. In the "To" field, put your new contact. In the "BCC" field, add your Chapter members or friends. You now have accomplished sharing the info while protecting the privacy of your GW family. Remember, protecting your members' privacy is more than just keeping your mailing list private, it means protecting their email too!

GWRRRA GA

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Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge



Gwrrra-ga.com

2006 Wing Fling Update

Yeeehaaaa!

The registrations for 2006 Hill-billy Hoedown Wing Fling are really rolling in!!! Thanks, folks! We are looking forward to a wonderful time in good 'ole Rome. The host hotel, Holiday Inn Skytop, is already accepting reservations (with a registration number, of course)so climb on board the hay wagon! We look forward to great shindig!



RALLY PIN DESIGN CONTEST

If you wish to submit an entry for the design of the 2006 Rally pin, you must do so by Wind Down in November. The winner will receive \$100 and 2 rally registrations. So, get your pens and pencils and everything else you draw with and **START DRAWIN'!**